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### **AFT660PnP AFTERBURNER W/ DIGITAL PLUG 'N PLAY**

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SMART products are designed to deliver unsurpassed quality in workmanship and performance. The following information gives detailed instructions on the installation and operation of the SMART AFT660 processor. We strongly encourage new owners of the AFT660 to thoroughly read this entire manual before placing their new SMART product into service. This will ensure that the AFT660 will be operated properly to give the superior performance that it was designed to deliver.

For service or installation assistance, please call our  
Technical Support Department between the hours of  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. E.S.T., Mon.-Fri.  
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# Installation and Operation Manual

## AFT660 Afterburner

### For Digital Systems

#### Introduction

Many theatres added digital sound in order to present the best available format, but found that their present power amplifiers and speakers were not up to the job of handling the increased sound levels without distortion during the most dynamic portions of the movie. Increased dynamic capability means the sound difference between average dialog levels and the maximum action sequence can be extremely wide. You cannot simply add a digital player to an existing sound system without closely studying the capability of the amplifiers and speakers to reproduce the increased sound levels. Most existing cinema stereo systems were designed to adequately handle the maximum levels of optical stereo.

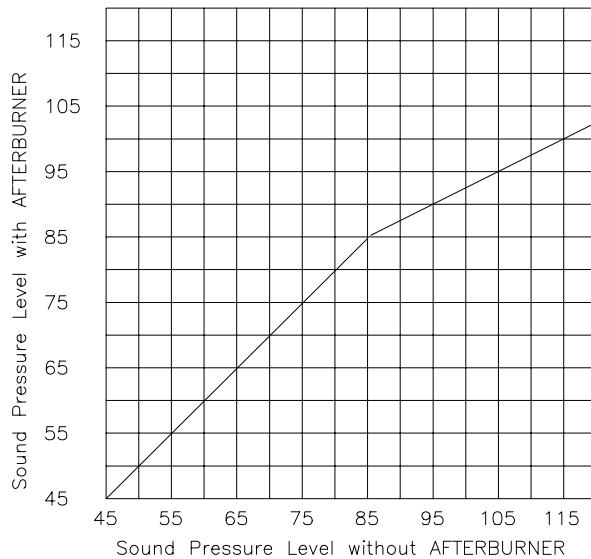
With louder sounds created by more channels and more dynamic range, more sound pressure is produced. This can cause annoying "sound bleed through" to adjacent auditoriums through common air conditioning ducts, passageways, a common ceiling and thin walls.

A common complaint from audiences about digital sound systems is that the sound is too loud. Our hearing is most sensitive to mid-range frequencies. Louder mid-range sounds appear to be sharp or piercing in proportion to the bass frequencies. A skilled recording artist can fix this in the mix by re-equalizing the track during loud sequences to minimize the subjective harsh sound. Unfortunately, you cannot control the content of the soundtrack you receive. An operator who is responsible for 12 booths cannot run to a single booth and turn it down every few minutes. Often, what happens is the sound level is set to compensate for the loudest parts of the movie and the dialog is then hard to hear.

The Model AFT660 AFTERBURNER from SMART solves all of these problems. The AFT660 is an automatic 6-channel threshold limiter that "burns off" the top dynamic range of the soundtrack. Unlike simple compressors or peak limiters, this circuit does not affect the sound dynamics until the threshold (which is adjustable) has been reached. All louder sounds are then reduced by a 2:1 ratio above the threshold. The AFT660 is extra sensitive to the mid-range frequencies that our ears are most sensitive to. The stage and surround channels track together to keep the channels balanced whenever one of the channels reaches its threshold. The subwoofer's threshold level is set separately from the other channels.

The chart below shows how the sound pressure is controlled when the threshold is reached. The actual threshold point is set by the installer in the auditorium. Some theatres would require a lower threshold level than others. The end result is that a normal dialog level can be achieved consistently and the loud passages are controlled automatically. The AFT660 is installed between the output of any digital player and the rest of the system. Convenient plug in cables make the installation quick and easy. The product only occupies 1 3/4" of rack space. An emergency bypass switch on the front of the product will hard wire the digital player around the AFT660 so that it won't cause a failure to the digital system.

If the system amplifiers and auditorium speakers are not quite big enough, the AFT660 will control the amount of power that is fed to them. A reduced sound level means less complaints from patrons and less sound bleed through to other auditoriums. The action of the limiters has been carefully shaped so that you cannot hear the product working. The resulting sound would appear to be similar to a good optical SR print. However, all the other sterling attributes of the digital recording are preserved, such as extended fidelity, no soundtrack noise and low distortion.



A large button on the front of the product allows the operator to select the mode of operation. If the digital soundtrack you receive is well recorded and well balanced, then do nothing. The signals will pass through the AFT660 without being altered. However, if you receive a screamer, the operator can push the ENABLE button and the automatic level control kicks in. No special training of the staff is required.

## Installation

### Inputs and Outputs

The output of the digital decoder should feed directly into the input of the AFT660 for the unit to operate properly. However, if desired, the AFT660 can be installed after the processor so that the AFT660 can monitor the levels of both optical and digital prints using the Afterburner Breakout board (Part #0660A390). See the Afterburner Breakout board section of the *Setting the Threshold Levels* instructions.

See section 5 for configuration diagrams for various types of systems.

If the AFT660 is installed into an existing digital sound system, it will not effect any calibration settings that were made previously. Only the threshold levels of the AFT660 need to be adjusted.

The AFT660 has two inputs, both of which are connected together in parallel. One input is a female DB25 connector, and the other is a header pin connector. Both will accept the outputs of any six channel digital decoder. Only one input will be used and the choice will depend on the other equipment used (see hookup diagrams). Smart offers adapter cables to mate any digital decoder to the AFT660. See the illustrations at the end of the manual for specific hookup instructions.

The AFT660 has two outputs, both of which are connected together in parallel. One output is a male DB25 connector, and the other is a header pin connector. Only one output will be used. The output from the AFT660 will mate with the rest of the sound system. On SMART processors, this will be the digital inputs on the processor. See the illustrations at the end of the manual for specific hookup instructions.

### Setting The Threshold Levels

There are two threshold levels on the AFT660 that need to be set after hooking the unit into the sound system. One is the threshold level for the five main channels (Left, Center, Right, Left Surround & Right Surround). The other is the threshold level for the Subwoofer chan-

nel. The threshold level trim pots are located at the rear of the unit. Two single-turn pots allow the user to set the threshold level. Turning the pot clockwise increases the threshold level. In other words, a louder sound passage is required to reach the threshold level. Turning the pot counterclockwise has the reverse effect. Once a sound passage exceeds the threshold level, the AFT660 compresses the audio *above* the threshold level at a 2:1 ratio. This means that for every 2 dB increase in sound pressure level above the threshold, the AFT660 allows only a 1 dB increase. The instructions below will outline a procedure for setting the threshold level at what we believe is an optimum setting. However, the end user is free to lower or raise the threshold level from this setting to accommodate their particular situation.

**DTS:** The DTS digital decoder is supplied with a test disc titled "DTS 6-track Setup Disc." This disc is a convenient item for setting the AFT660 threshold levels. The test disc has 50 tracks with different test signals for the various channels. One test is "Pink Noise @ Reference Level (85 dB SPL)." The Left, Center and Right channels have different tracks for this test:

- Track #37 — Left Pink Noise @ Reference Level (85 dB SPL)
- Track #39 — Center Pink Noise @ Reference Level (85 dB SPL)
- Track #41 — Right Pink Noise @ Reference Level (85 dB SPL)

Put the test disc in the DTS and adjust the rotary dials for track #37. This is the Left channel pink noise test. Make sure that the engage light on the front of the AFT660 is on, indicating that the AFT660 is "active." If not, then press the Engage button to activate the AFT660 (the light on the Engage button will illuminate). With the Pink Noise playing, adjust the MAIN threshold control until the red LED just above the pot illuminates. Turn the rotary dials on the DTS for both Center and Right Pink Noise (see above). Make certain that the LED above the threshold pot illuminates while these channels are playing Pink Noise. Make any minor adjustment to the MAIN threshold pot so that all three tests illuminate the red LED

**Adjusting Subwoofer threshold level:** Set the rotary dials on the DTS to track #42. This is Sub-Bass Pink Noise @ Reference Level (85 dB SPL). With the Pink Noise playing, adjust the SUB threshold control until the red LED just above the pot illuminates.

These adjustments set the AFT660 to activate its 2:1 compression when the sound pressure level in the auditorium reaches 85 dB. As stated before, the end user may wish to set the threshold level to a higher or lower

## AFT660 Afterburner & AFT660PnP Digital Plug 'N Play

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setting depending on their requirements.

### Other Digital Decoders:

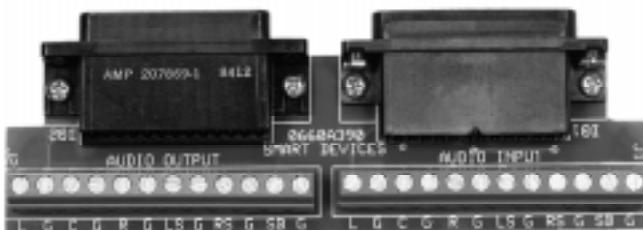
If there is a pink noise source available for the system, play it through the Left channel. Set the system so that 85 dB SPL is measured in the auditorium while the Afterburner is DISENGAGED. Engage the Afterburner, and adjust the MAIN threshold level so that the red LED just about the pot just comes on. Confirm that the LED stays on when pink noise is played through Center and Right channels also.

Play the pink noise through the subwoofer channel at 85 dB SPL in the auditorium, again engage the Afterburner and set the SUB threshold level so that the red LED just above the pot just stays on.

If no calibration sound material is available, then setting the threshold levels for other digital decoders will require playing a digital print and setting the threshold levels by ear. Wait for a sound passage that has some strong dialog. Set the MAIN threshold level so that the red LED just above the pot blinks during these passages. Verify that during loud action scenes the red LED illuminates. For the SUB threshold adjustment, wait for a sound passage with a strong amount of subwoofer material. Adjust the SUB threshold level so that the red LED above the pot just illuminates.

### Using the Afterburner Breakout board:

When using the Afterburner AFTER a processor to compress optical and digital soundtracks, it is possible to set the thresholds using either a digital OR optical Pink Noise track, and then following the instructions in the *Other Digital Decoders* section above.



Note: When either of the red LED's above the threshold pots illuminate, the red PROCESSING LED on the front of the AFT660 will also illuminate, indicating that the AFT660 is compressing the top end of the sound material.

## Operating Instructions

### Red Bypass/Power Switch

This switch located on the front panel applies power to the unit and routes the audio channels through the cir-

cuitry in the AFT660. In the event that the AFT660 has failed, this switch can be turned off which will force the audio channels to be "hard bypassed" around the AFT660.

### Engage Button

This button on the front panel turns the compression circuitry on and off in the AFT660. When the red LED on the button is illuminated, the compression circuitry is activated. This is the normal power-up state for the AFT660.

### Processing LED

When this LED on the front panel illuminates, the audio level coming into the AFT660 has surpassed the threshold level, and the compression action on the high end of the audio material is taking place. This LED should only illuminate on hard or loud passages. If it is never illuminating or is on all the time, then the threshold levels may not be set properly (see Installation Instructions). This LED will illuminate whenever the Subwoofer or one of the five main channels (Left, Center, Right, Left Surround or Right Surround) exceeds the threshold level.

## Pinout Configuration

### Input DB25:

Left: Pin 1  
Center: Pin 3  
Right: Pin 5  
Left Surround: Pin 6  
Right Surround: Pin 7  
Subwoofer: Pin 8  
GND: Pin 14-25  
Mono: Pin 9  
Music: Pin 10  
Stereo A: Pin 11  
Digital: Pin 12  
SR/Optical: Pin 13

### Input Header:

Left: Pin 2  
Center: Pin 14  
Right: Pin 8  
Left Surround: Pin 4  
Right Surround: Pin 3  
Subwoofer: Pin 10  
GND: Pin 1  
Mono: Pin 19  
Music: Pin 13  
Stereo A: Pin 20  
Digital: Pin 18  
SR/Optical: Pin 17  
-15 VDC: Pin 11  
+15 VDC: Pin 12

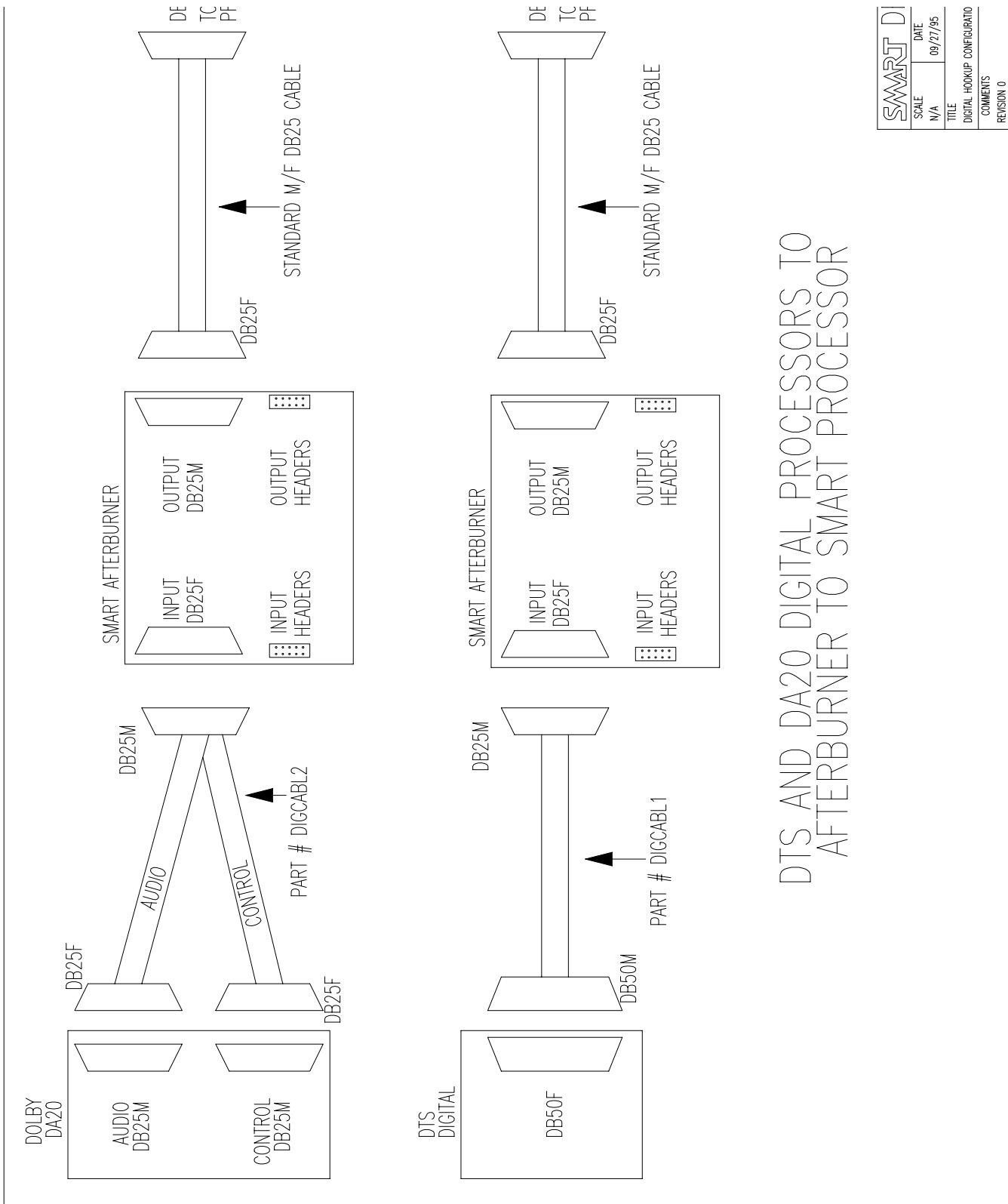
### Output DB25:

Left: Pin 1  
Center: Pin 3  
Right: Pin 5  
Left Surround: Pin 6  
Right Surround: Pin 7  
Subwoofer: Pin 8  
GND: Pin 14-25  
Mono: Pin 9  
Music: Pin 10  
Stereo A: Pin 11  
Digital: Pin 12  
SR/Optical: Pin 13

### Output Header:

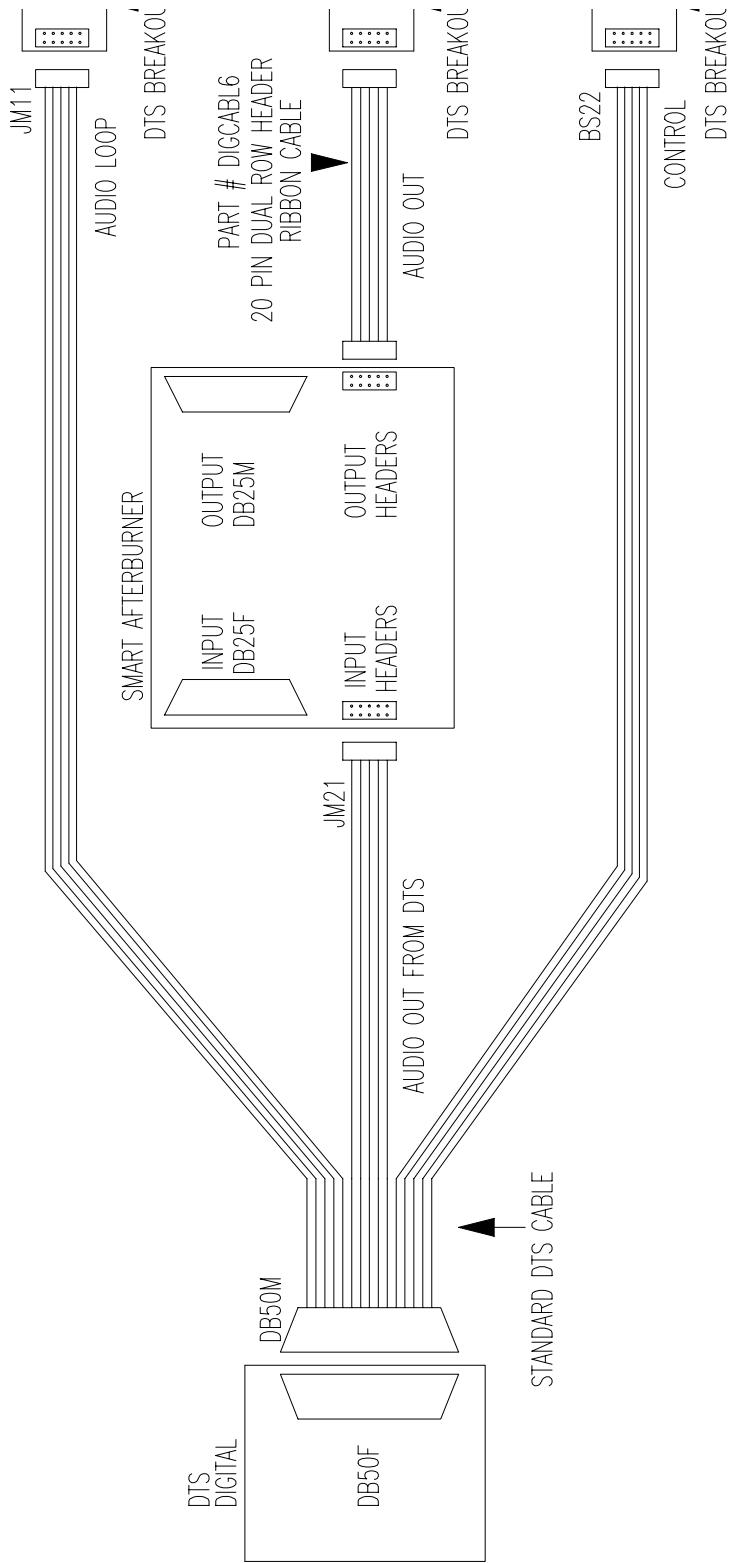
Left: Pin 2  
Center: Pin 14  
Right: Pin 8  
Left Surround: Pin 4  
Right Surround: Pin 3  
Subwoofer: Pin 10

## INSTALLATION AND OPERATION



**DTS AND DA20 DIGITAL PROCESSORS TO  
AFTERBURNER TO SMART PROCESSOR**

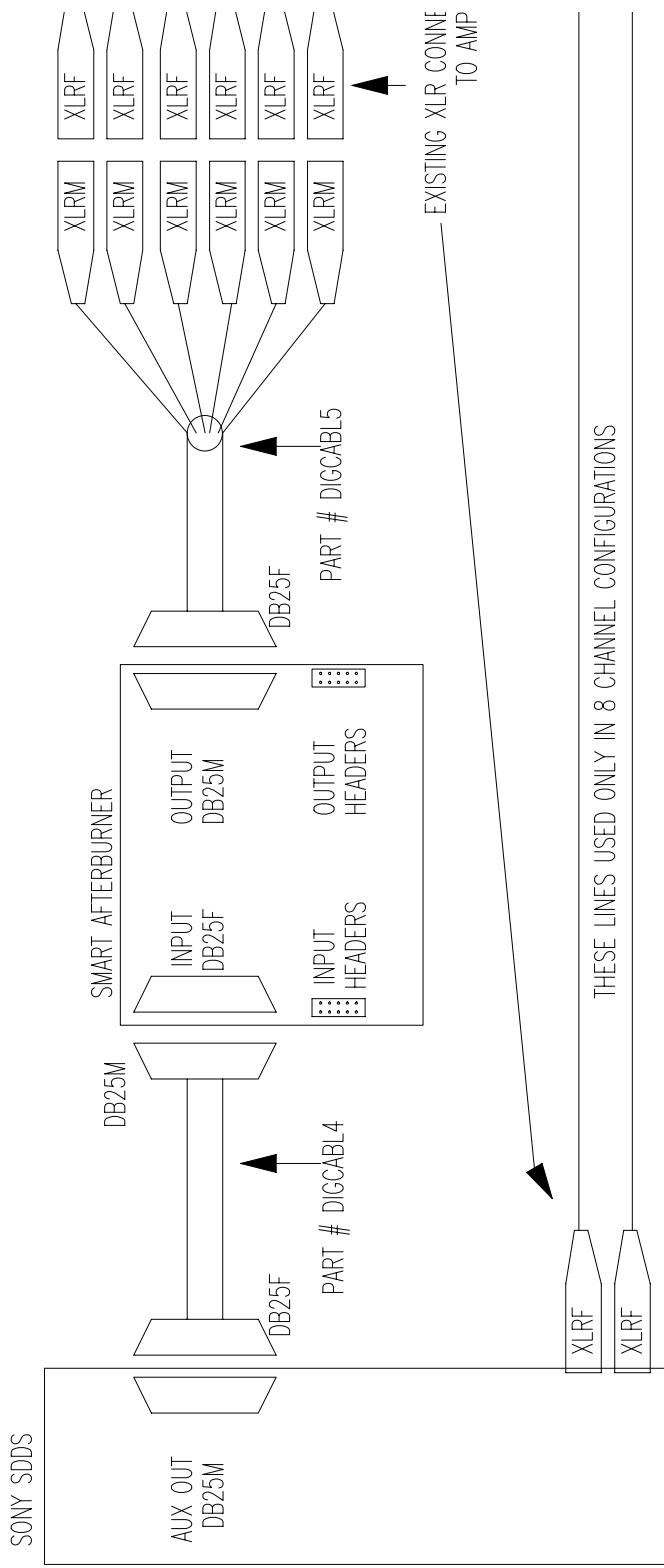
## AFT660 Afterburner & AFT660PnP Digital Plug 'N Play



DTS DIGITAL PROCESSOR TO AFTERBURNER  
TO DOLBY OR OTHER PROCESSOR HOOKUP

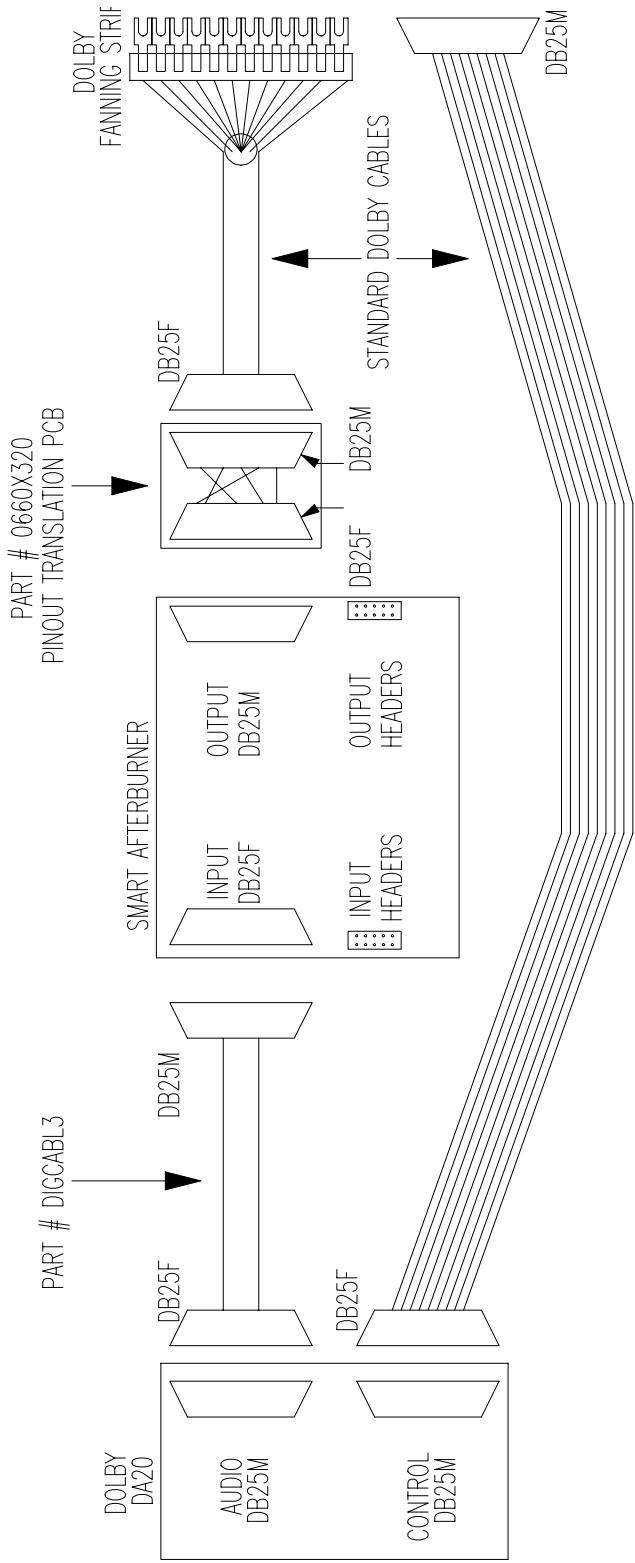
DTS BREAKOUT BOARDS ARE USED TO  
INTERFACE FROM THE DTS RIBBON CABLE  
TO THE VARIOUS DOLBY AND OTHER  
OPTICAL PROCESSORS.

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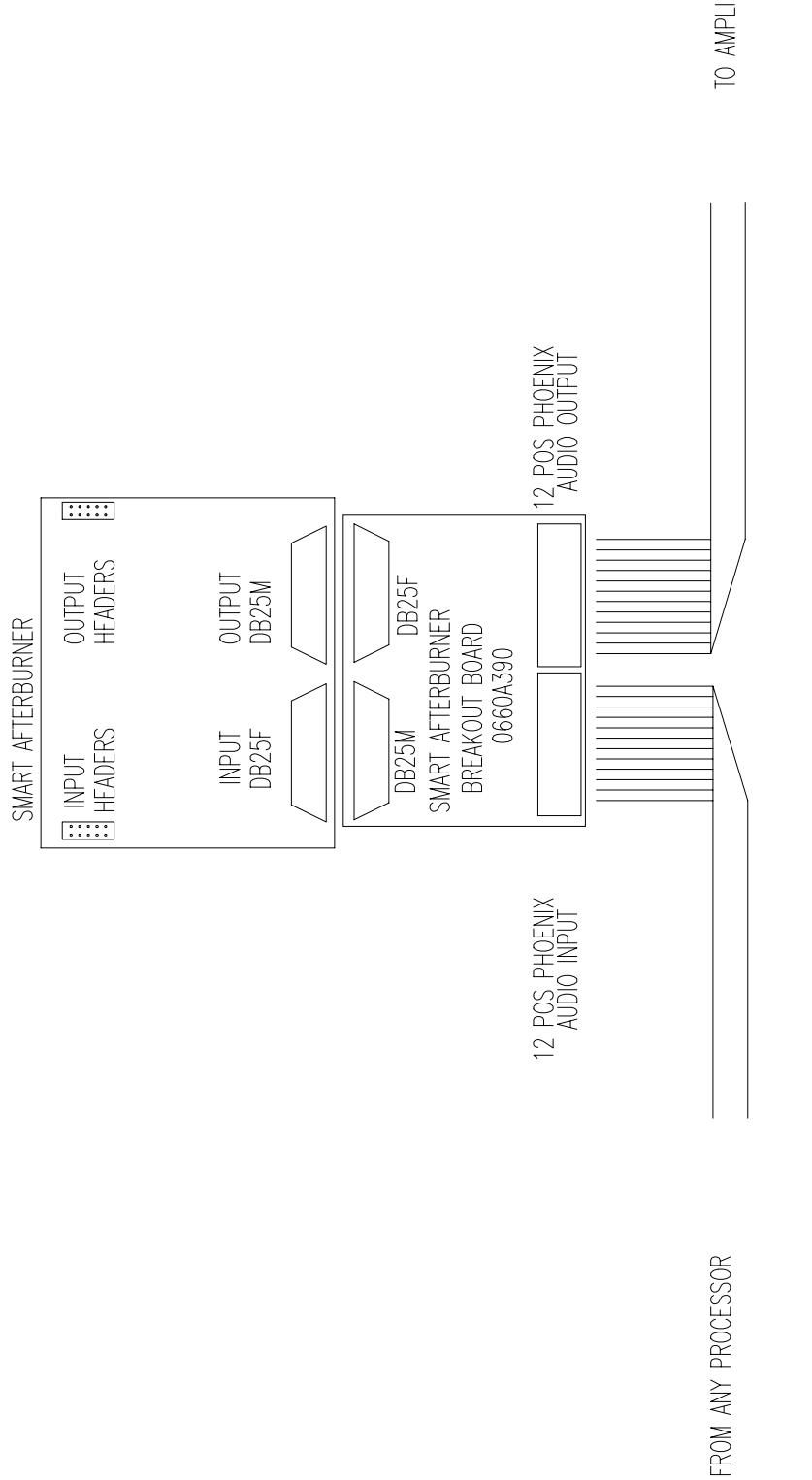
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ANY PROCESSOR TO AFTERBURNER TO AMPLIFIERS  
USING AFTERBURNER BREAKOUT BOARD

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# Installation and Service Manual

## AFT660PnP Digital Plug 'N Play

### For Digital Systems

## SECTION 7

### Introduction

The Afterburner Digital Plug N' Play is a digital player interface port compatible with DTS-6, DTS-6D, Dolby DA-20, and Sony SDDS digital players. The AFTPnP has 4 sets of ports located on the front side that each interface with a specific brand of player to allow for quick connect and disconnect of a mobile digital system. Additionally, the interface is integrated with the AFT660 Afterburner to control excessively loud sound that has been a problem with digital soundtracks (Please see the Afterburner AFT660 manual for further details).

Both 6 channel audio and format control signals are routed through the system and out through a 25 pin D-Type subminiature connector that is pin to pin compatible with SMART MOD2 and MOD6 processors. An additional D-type connector is provided for extra signals such as mute, left extra and right extra (for 8 channel systems), and mono surround. Jumpers are provided for hard selecting of SR or A-type optical tracks.

The Afterburner Breakout board cannot be used with the Afterburner Plug 'N Play.

For DTS-6D and DA-20 roll around rack assemblies, SMART offers optional Plug N' Play Rover Panels for easy front mounted connect and disconnect.

DA-20: Use SMART Part # PNPROVERDA

DTS-6D: Use SMART Part # PNPROVERDT

## Specific Digital Player Features

### DTS-6

*Audio Signals:* Left, Center, Right, Left Surround, Right Surround, and Subwoofer.

*Control Signals:* Digital and Optical (can be applied to SR or A when used with MOD6, or SR/A when used with MOD2).

*EXTRA Signals:* MONOSURR, PROJ1, PROJ2, and GO.

### DTS-6D

*Audio Signals:* Left, Center, Right, Left Surround, Right Surround, and Subwoofer.

*Control Signals:* SR, A, Digital, Music, and Mono.

*EXTRA Signals:* MONOSURR, PROJ1MOTORA/B, PROJ1DOUSERA/B, PROJ2MOTORA/B, PROJ2DOUSERA/B, LEFT EXTRA, and RIGHT EXTRA.

Jumpers are provided on the rear of the AFTPnP for utilizing the FORCE SR and FORCE A features of the DTS-6D.

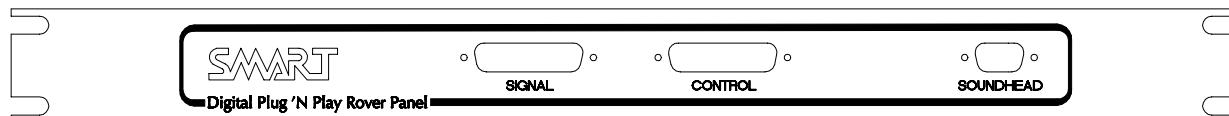
### Dolby DA-20

*Audio Signals:* Left, Center, Right, Left Surround, Right Surround, and Subwoofer.

*Control Signals:* Digital and SR.

*EXTRA Signals:* None.

The subwoofer signal on the DA-20 is amplified 10dB before being processed by the Afterburner.



SMART DTS-6D Rover Panel

### Sony SDDS

Audio Signals: Left, Center, Right, Left Surround, Right Surround, and Subwoofer.

Control Signals: Digital and Optical (See Below).

EXTRA Signals: PROJ1, PROJ2, MUTE, LEFT EXTRA, and RIGHT EXTRA.

Because of the unusual topography of the Sony SDDS system, the AFTPnP uses some special circuitry to generate the necessary control signals. The SDDS' DATA PRESENT and MANUAL BYPASS signals are used to pulse the Digital and Optical control lines at appropriate times. The Optical signal can be applied to SR or A when used with MOD6, or SR/A when used with MOD2.

### SECTION 3 Installation

The Afterburner Digital Plug 'N Play fits into a 3.5" rack space (2 standard rack units).

1. Mount the unit in a rack location close to the processor and at a height that is convenient for plugging from the mobile digital player cart.
2. Connect the AFTPnP to the specific processor as follows:

**SMART MOD IIC, IV, V, and VI:** Using a standard 25 Pin D-Type female to male cable, connect the AUDIO OUT DB25 port on the back of the Afterburner chassis to the DIGITAL INPUT/INTERFACE port of the SMART processor.

**OTHER PROCESSORS:** A special cable can be constructed for other processors using the AUDIO OUT Pinouts provided on page 4, and the input pinouts provided in your processor's manual.

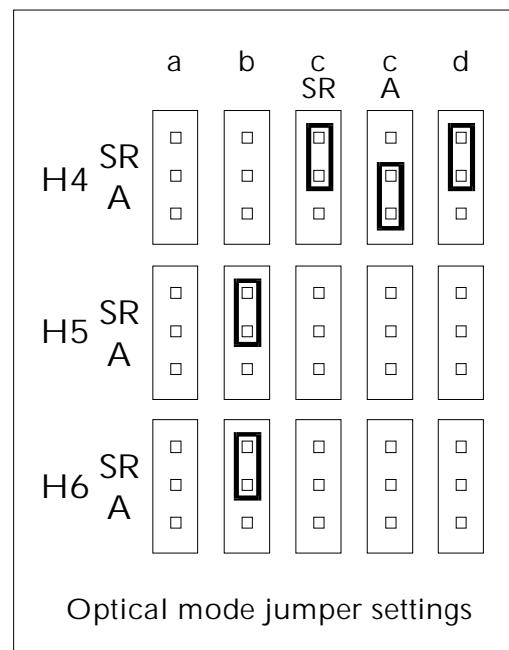
3. Set the Optical Format Jumpers (H4, H5, & H6) on the back of the Plug 'N Play main board according to the following configurations (also see the diagram to the right):

**a) DTS-6D to MOD VI:** No jumpers are necessary. Make sure that H4, H5 and H6 header pins have no jumpers across any two pins (hang them off one pin if any are present). H5 and H6 can be used to "force" the DTS-6D to default to either A or SR by applying jumpers across the top two pins for SR or bottom two pins for A on each set of headers.

**b) DTS-6D to MODIIB, IIC, IV, V, Dolby CP65, and other processors:** Put jumpers on the top two pins of the FORCE headers (H5 & H6) so that SR mode is forced on the Digital player. No jumper is needed on H4.

**c) DTS-6, Sony SDDS and Dolby DA-20 to MOD VI:** Set the H4 jumper to SR or A (top two or bottom two pins, respectively) depending on the format of the optical backup of the specific film you are presenting. No jumpers are needed on H5 and H6.

**d) DTS-6, Sony SDDS and Dolby DA-20 to other processors:** Set the H4 jumper to SR (top two pins). The default format for the specific film must be set in the processor.



The settings a, b, c SR, c A, and d are explained in the above paragraphs.

4. For systems using the optional Digital Plug 'N Play Rover Panel:
  - a) Mount the Rover Panel in the mobile digital player rack. (The Rover Panel fits into a standard 1.75" (1 rack unit) space.
  - b) Attach one DB25 cable to Audio output of the DA-20 or DTS-6D digital player.
  - c) Attach one DB25 cable to the Control or Automation output of the DA-20 or DTS-6D digital player.
  - d) Attach the DB9 cable to the Soundhead output of the DA-20 or DTS-6D digital player.
  - e) Attach the three DB cables to the Rover Panel in the

## AFT660 Afterburner & AFT660PnP Digital Plug 'N Play

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appropriate holes (labeled SIGNAL, CONTROL, and SOUNDHEAD on the front) from the backside. Secure with provided nuts.

5. Connect the digital player to the Digital Plug 'N Play:

**Note: NEVER PLUG TWO DIGITAL SYSTEMS IN AT THE SAME TIME.**

**DTS-6:** Use the cable provided by Dolby (DB50 to 2 20 pin and 1 10 pin header connectors. Connect from the J1 50 pin connector on the back of the DTS-6 to the DTS-6 SIGNAL and CONTROL ports on the front of the Plug 'N Play. The JM21 20 pin connector is the SIGNAL, and the BS22 10 pin connector is the CONTROL.

**Important Note:** When connected to the Plug 'N Play, the SIGNAL cable (JM-21) exits the connector upwards, and the CONTROL cable (BS-22) exits downward. (see photo on opposite page)

**DTS-6D:** Use two DB25 cables. Connect from the ANALOG OUT and AUTOMATION ports on the back of the DTS-6D (or the SIGNAL and CONTROL ports on the Rover Panel) to the SIGNAL and CONTROL ports on the front of the Plug 'N Play, respectively.

**DA-20:** Use two DB25 cables. Connect from the back of the digital player (or the front of the Rover Panel) to the SIGNAL and CONTROL ports on the front of the Plug 'N Play.

**SDDS:** Use 1 DB37 and 1 DB25 cable. Connect from the back of the SDDS to the SDDS SIGNAL and CONTROL ports on the front of the Plug 'N Play.

6. If desired, connect the EXTRA CONTROLS. The EXTRA CONTROLS connector is a DB25 plug which carries the extra signals described in the *Specific Digital Player Features* section. A special cable may be created for the purpose of feeding through these extra signals into the rack unit as desired. The EXTRA CONTROLS pinouts are as follows:

Pin 1: PROJ1MOTORA (DTS-6D)  
Pin 2: PROJ1DOUSERA (DTS-6D)  
Pin 3: PROJ2MOTORA (DTS-6D)  
Pin 4: PROJ2DOUSERA (DTS-6D)  
Pin 5: PROJ1MOTORB (DTS-6D)  
Pin 6: PROJ1DOUSERB (DTS-6D)  
Pin 7: PROJ2MOTORB (DTS-6D)  
Pin 8: PROJ2DOUSERB (DTS-6D)  
Pin 10: MUTE (SDDS)  
Pin 11: PROJ1 (DTS-6, SDDS)  
Pin 12: PROJ2 (DTS-6, SDDS)

Pin 13: GO (DTS-6)  
Pin 19: MONOSURR (DTS-6, DTS-6D)  
Pin 20: LEFT EXTRA (DTS-6D, SDDS)  
Pin 21: RIGHT EXTRA (DTS-6D, SDDS)  
Pin 25: COM (ALL)

See the manual for the related digital player for an explanation of these signals.

7. Connect digital player to digital soundhead.
8. Plug Afterburner power cord into rack power strip.
9. Plug digital player's power cord into rack power strip.
10. Follow the instructions in the Afterburner 660 section of this manual for calibrating the Afterburner system (SECTION 2: INSTALLATION).

## SECTION 9 Operating Instructions

### Red Bypass/Power Switch

This switch located on the front panel applies power to the unit and routes the audio channels through the circuitry in the AFT660. In the event that the AFT660 has failed, this switch can be turned off which will force the audio channels to be "hard bypassed" around the AFT660. The Power Switch must be on for the Plug 'N Play interface to operate. To use the Plug 'N Play without the Afterburner effect, leave the power on and disengage the Afterburner using the Engage button.

### Engage Button

This button on the front panel turns the compression circuitry on and off in the AFT660. When the red LED on the button is illuminated, the compression circuitry is activated. This is the normal power-up state for the AFT660. The Engage button has no effect on the Plug 'N Play circuitry.

### Processing LED

When this LED on the front panel illuminates, the audio level coming into the AFT660 has surpassed the threshold level, and the compression action on the high end of the audio material is taking place. This LED should only illuminate on hard or loud passages. If it is never illuminating or is on all the time, then the threshold levels may not be set properly (see Installation Instructions). This LED will illuminate whenever the Subwoofer or one of the five main channels (Left, Center, Right, Left Surround or Right Surround) exceeds the threshold level.

### Digital Interfaces

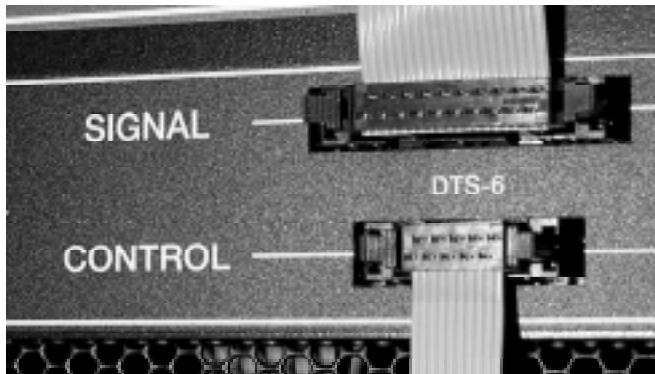
Make sure that the Digital Plug 'N Play has been properly configured for use with the specific digital player being used (see the Installation Instructions). Plug the Signal and Control cables into the appropriate ports on the front of the Plug 'N Play and on the mobile digital player rack. **NEVER PLUG TWO DIGITAL PLAYERS IN AT THE SAME PLUG 'N PLAY AT THE SAME TIME! EQUIPMENT FAILURE MAY RESULT!**

#### Things to watch for:

The **DA-20**'s connectors are identical. Make sure that the correct cable is plugged into the correct port.

The **DTS-6**'s connectors plug in so that the top connector's cable goes up (SIGNAL), and the bottom connector's cable goes down (CONTROL). See the photo to the right.

If the digital player is not reverting to the correct optical mode during times of digital data failure, or is not reverting at all, refer to step 3 of the Plug 'N Play Installation instructions for proper jumper settings.



Proper orientation for DTS-6 cables.